

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 11, 21 and 32 without prejudice or dedication.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~44~~, wherein said presenting said updated status message to said local user of said local computer system further comprises~~comprising~~:

presenting said updated status message to ~~said~~ local user of said local computer system in response to ~~said~~ local user hovering a cursor over said representation of said remote computer system user.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~44~~, wherein said presenting said updated status message to said local user of said local computer system further comprises~~comprising~~:

presenting said updated status message to ~~said~~ local user of said local computer system in response to said local user selecting said representation of said remote computer system user.

4. (currently amended) A method of providing a local user of an instant messaging system with updated status information regarding at least one remote user, comprising~~The method of claim 1, further comprising~~:

obtaining, by an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system, from an associated awareness server application process executing on a server computer system, an online status of said remote computer system user;

presenting, by said awareness client application process, a representation of said remote computer system user, wherein said representation of said remote computer system user includes an indication of said online status of said remote computer system user;

obtaining, by said awareness client application process on said local computer system, an updated status message associated with said remote computer system user;

modifying said indication of said online status of said remote computer system user to include an indication that said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user is available, wherein said modifying does not present said updated status message;

presenting said updated status message to a local user of said local computer system; and

removing said indication that said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user is available responsive to said presenting of said updated status message.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein said representation of said remote computer system user is maintained by said awareness client application process on said local computer system.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein said representation of said remote computer system user is an awareness object within a display window associated with an application process on said local computer system other than said awareness client application process.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein said online status of said remote computer system user includes an indication of whether said remote computer system user is available for an instant messaging communication session.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 44, further comprising presenting said indication that said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user is available for a predetermined time after said obtaining said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 44, further comprising:

presenting an interface to said user of said local computer system, wherein said interface enables said user of said local computer system to indicate whether an indication that an updated status message associated with said user of said local computer system user is available is provided to other users.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 44, further comprising:

presenting an interface to said user of said local computer system, wherein said interface enables said user of said local computer system to specify one or more other users with which an indication that an updated status message associated with said user of said local computer system may be presented.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The system of claim 14~~4~~, said means for presenting said updated status message to said local user of said local computer system further comprising:

means for presenting said updated status message to said~~a~~ local user of said~~a~~ local computer system in response to said~~a~~ local user hovering a cursor over said representation of said remote computer system user.

13. (currently amended) The system of claim 14~~4~~, said means for presenting said updated status message to said local user of said local computer system further comprising:

means for presenting said updated status message to said~~a~~ local user of said local computer system in response to said local user selecting said representation of said remote computer system user.

14. (currently amended) A system of providing a local user of an instant messaging system with updated status information regarding at least one remote user. The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means for obtaining, by an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system, from an associated awareness server application process executing on a server computer system, an online status of said remote computer system user;

means for presenting, by said awareness client application process, a representation of said remote computer system user, wherein said representation of said remote computer system user includes an indication of said online status of said remote computer system user;

_____ means for obtaining, by said awareness client application process on said local computer system, an updated status message associated with said remote computer system user;

_____ means for modifying said indication of said online status of said remote computer system user to include an indication that said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user is available, wherein said modifying does not present said updated status message;

means for presenting said updated status message to a local user of said local computer system; and

means for removing said indication that said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user is available responsive to said presenting of said updated status message.

15. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~144~~, wherein said representation of said remote computer system user is maintained by said awareness client application process on said local computer system.

16. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~144~~, wherein said representation of said remote computer system user is an awareness object within a display window associated with an application process on said local computer system other than said awareness client application process.

17. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~1411~~, wherein said online status of said remote computer system user includes an indication of whether said remote computer system user is available for an instant messaging communication session.

18. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~1411~~, further comprising presenting said indication that said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user is available for a predetermined time after said obtaining said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user.

19. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~1411~~, further comprising:

means for presenting an interface to said user of said local computer system, wherein said interface enables said user of said local computer system to indicate whether an indication that an updated status message associated with said user of said local computer system user is available is provided to other users.

20. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~1411~~, further comprising:

means for presenting an interface to said user of said local computer system, wherein said interface enables said user of said local computer system to specify one or more other users with which an indication that an updated status message associated with said user of said local computer system may be presented.

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 2421, said program code for presenting said updated status message to a local user of said local computer system ~~computer program~~ further comprising:

program code for presenting said updated status message to said local user of said local computer system in response to said local user hovering a cursor over said representation of said remote computer system user.

23. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 2421, said program code for presenting said updated status message to a local user of said local computer system ~~computer program~~ further comprising:

program code for presenting said updated status message to said local user of said local computer system in response to said local user selecting said representation of said remote computer system user.

24. (currently amended) A computer program product, wherein said computer program product includes a computer readable memory, said computer readable memory having a computer program for providing a local user of an instant messaging system with updated status information regarding at least one remote user stored thereon, said computer program ~~The computer program product of claim 21, said computer program~~ further comprising:

program code for obtaining, by an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system, from an associated awareness server application process executing on a server computer system, an online status of said remote computer system user;

program code for presenting, by said awareness client application process, a representation of said remote computer system user, wherein said representation of said remote computer system user includes an indication of said online status of said remote computer system user;

program code for obtaining, by said awareness client application process on said local computer system, an updated status message associated with said remote computer system user;

program code for modifying said indication of said online status of said remote computer system user to include an indication that said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user is available, wherein said modifying does not present said updated status message;

program code for presenting said updated status message to a local user of said local computer system; and

program code for removing said indication that said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user is available responsive to said presenting of said updated status message.

25. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim ~~242~~⁴, wherein said representation of said remote computer system user is maintained by said awareness client application process on said local computer system.

26. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim ~~242~~⁴, wherein said representation of said remote computer system user is an awareness object within a display

window associated with an application process on said local computer system other than said awareness client application process.

27. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 2424, wherein said online status of said remote computer system user includes an indication of whether said remote computer system user is available for an instant messaging communication session.

28. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 2424, said computer program further comprising program code for presenting said indication that said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user is available for a predetermined time after said obtaining said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user.

29. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 2424, said computer program further comprising:

program code for presenting an interface to said user of said local computer system, wherein said interface enables said user of said local computer system to indicate whether an indication that an updated status message associated with said user of said local computer system user is available is provided to other users.

30. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 2424, said computer program further comprising:

program code for presenting an interface to said user of said local computer system, wherein said interface enables said user of said local computer system to specify one or more

other users with which an indication that an updated status message associated with said user of said local computer system may be presented.

31. (currently amended) A system for providing a local user of an instant messaging system with updated status information regarding at least one remote user, comprising:

program code, stored in a computer readable memory communicably coupled to at least one processor on a client computer system for obtaining, by an awareness client application process executing on said client computer system, from an associated awareness server application process executing on a server computer system, an online status of said remote computer system user;

program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for presenting, by said awareness client application process, a representation of said remote computer system user, wherein said representation of said remote computer system user includes an indication of said online status of said remote computer system user;

program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for obtaining, by said awareness client application process on said local computer system, an updated status message associated with said remote computer system user; ~~and~~

program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for modifying said indication of said online status of said remote computer system user to include an indication that said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user is available, wherein said modifying does not present said updated status message;

program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for presenting said updated status message to a local user of said local computer system; and

_____ program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for removing said indication that said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user is available responsive to said presenting of said updated status message.

32. (canceled)